

TOWN OF CHESTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 30, 2015  
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Tom Bock; William Lindsay; Heather Chase; Arne Jonynas;  
David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Edward Huse; Matt Wilson; Suzy Forlie

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman DeBenedetti.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

December 16, 2015:

A motion was made by Tom Bock to approve the December 16, 2015 minutes of the Chester Selectboard meeting as amended. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

Page 5, add that Heather Chase thanked Ken Barrett for his display

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

3. 2016 DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

David Pisha stated that the budget before them shows all of the revenues and expenses through the end of the year. He noted that there is a small surplus of \$8,500.00 for the General Fund. David Pisha stated that there will be an additional invoice in the amount of \$49,000.00 needing to be paid in 2016 for the Depot Street paving of 2015 which has been added to the Public Works budget. David Pisha stated that the net to be collected in 2016 is \$31,000.00 over last year.

David Pisha stated that the Ambulance budget reflects the addition of a full time person in the Ambulance Department. This would negate the Golden Cross contract. He stated that overall there is an additional expense of approximately \$15,000.00 which could be offset by the potential loss of revenue if the town uses Golden Cross. John DeBenedetti questioned the line item for insurance and wants to make sure that this includes the \$6,000.00 premium for the ambulance employee. John DeBenedetti questioned the insurance payment and the truck expense coming from the General Fund. David Pisha explained that the Capital Plan requires voter approval for each individual expense. John DeBenedetti asked David Pisha to double check the surplus figure to ensure its accurateness. Discussion ensued regarding the surplus. He further questioned if the budget includes an average increase of 3% which it does. John

DeBenedetti noted that the Selectboard budget is also showing at \$7,500.00. David Pisha noted that there has also been added a \$10,000.00 interest payment for the purchase of the land.

David Pisha stated that he is working on the cash flow for the upcoming Tax Anticipation Note which should be available at an upcoming meeting.

John DeBenedetti questioned the payment of the bond interest being paid for through the Capital Plan. It was also agreed that the County Tax line should be double checked for its accuracy. Suzy Forlie questioned the amount of money being put aside for facilities. David Pisha explained that there is not much leeway in 2016 for work on town hall. William Lindsay stated that he is not in favor of budgeting money for a project that has not been determined. Discussion ensued regarding how much to add to the facilities line item.

A motion was made by William Lindsay to earmark \$20,000.00 for the Town Hall to be added the facility line in the Capital Plan Budget. Seconded by Heather Chase. John DeBenedetti clarified that the line item would then be increased by \$40,000.00. The motion passed. David Pisha will change how the Capital Plan reads to show the earmark. The Town Warning will need to be amended as well.

Heather Chase questioned the status of the hydrants being paid for from the Water project. David Pisha noted that the answer has not yet been received.

Matthew Wilson was present to explain that the \$18,500.00 in the budget for the Fire Department is used for everyday equipment such as torn gloves, flashlight bulbs, ripped boots, etc. This is not the same as the \$18,500.00 that is in the Capital Plan. Arne Jonynas questioned the fire hoses and if they all needed to be replaced. Matthew Wilson explained that all hoses 1987 or older is to be removed immediately. This includes 90% of our hoses. Arne Jonynas questioned the increases in salaries for the Fire Department. Matthew Wilson explained that this is due to the increased call volumes. Matthew Wilson explained that the only difference in payment is that we now pay for training.

Heather Chase questioned why the washer/dryer is needed. Matthew Wilson explained that it is because of cross-contamination.

William Lindsay noted that they have received a report from Matthew Wilson for his report on the calls made to Andover. He stated that this is important to provide so that Andover can see how their money is being spent. The Board discussed the Andover contribution and the potential increase for 2017.

Shawn Cunningham questioned if Andover's Memorandum of Understanding was for one year and wanted it reevaluated each year. David Pisha will review the Memo and get a hold of Mr. Johnson from Andover.

4. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

Arne Jonynas will provide an update on the TAC meeting at the next meeting. Tom Bock stated that the Planning Commission will be meeting on January 4, 2016 to discuss the Town Plan. The budget and the Town Warning will be on the next agenda.

5. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Heather Chase adjourn. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase  
Clerk of the Select Board

The SAPA-TV recording of this meeting is hereby made a part of the permanent minute record of this meeting.